

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and in particular without prejudice to applicant's right to file a continuation application directed thereto.

Claims 4-16 are presented. The independent claims are 4-8, 11-13, 15 and 16. The fee for two additional independent claims is submitted herewith. Claim 11 is taken from the marked-up version of claim 11 as presented in the amendment filed August 6, 2003 (cf. Office Action, § 2, page 2).

The rejection of claims 1-3 has been avoided by the cancellation of those claims in order to expedite issuance of a patent.

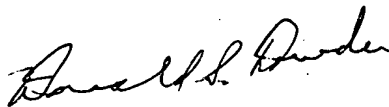
Claims 7-16 are allowed pursuant to §10 on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4-6 have been rewritten accordingly.

There being no further objections or rejections, the application is clearly in condition for allowance. Issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is requested to call undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,
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